

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN

DÖRÜM

COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

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APPEAL OF THE TKP CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The local elections have a special importance in the situation in which our country finds itself today. The collaborating big bourgeoisie is further intensifying its repression and terror against the progressive forces, first and foremost, the working class. It is persisting in its drive towards fascism as a means of coming out of the crisis. The local and foreign monopolies are profiteering on a huge scale. The elected parliament did not function for months. In the general elections, the vast majority of the people voted to replace the Nationalist Front Government with a government that would defend democratic rights and freedoms. The anti-democratic conditions, and moreover, the self-serving, passive policy of the Republican People's Party (RPP) leadership prevented this demand of our people from being fulfilled. The task of overthrowing this reactionary-fascist coalition government and bringing to power an advanced democratic government that will truly solve the problems facing our country, and; to this end, of ensuring a unity of action, a front of all national, democratic forces is still on the agenda. The local elections cannot be separated from this struggle.

The danger of a fascist dictatorship looms over Turkey. On the other hand, the big bourgeoisie is seeking to form a Justice Party (JP) — Republican People's Party (RPP) coalition government. The RPP leaders, drifting towards the right, are also inclined towards an agreement with reactionary-fascist parties like the Justice Party and the Nationalist Action Party (NAP). The dirty deal concluded for the election of the President of the National Assembly is one example of this that has come to light. More and more, these people are adopting the anti-communism which is part of the program and practice of the present government. But the tendency of the rightest leaders of the RPP towards conciliation with the Demirel's and Türkeş's does not prevent the fascist commandos from attacking RPP members all over the country. It is clear that this tendency has evoked a wide reaction among the working people who belong to this party and among those who voted for it. Broad masses of the working people cannot vote for RPP candidates of this sort just as they cannot vote for candidates of the government parties.

Despite the fact that it has been banned, the Communist Party of Turkey is taking an active part in the local election campaign, showing our people the way. As always, in this election campaign, the communists are attaching great importance to their work of organising the working class and the masses of working people. They are participating in rallies alongside other progressive, democratic forces. They are exposing the empty, hollow words of the reactionary-fascist candidates, those who are inclined towards conciliation with them, and those who, for years have brought the people nothing but hunger, poverty, high prices, oppression and terror.

The TKP proposes that those progressive, democratic candidates participating in the elections who are on the side of the people should enter

into local agreements, support each other, and thus unite the votes of masses of the working electorate.

In the local elections, the broad masses of working people must go to the ballot boxes, must use their votes to repulse the reactionary, fascist forces and to expel them from the municipalities. No vote for the candidates of the JP, the NAP or the National Salvation Party (NSP) — the parties which make up the present government, the enemy of the people and the nation! No vote for those who enter into dirty deals with them, for those who turn their backs on the progressive, democratic forces and the people, those who break the promises they gave to the people! No vote for RPP candidates such as this!

Citizen voters! Vote for candidates who don't belong to the government parties, those who oppose the rising tide of fascism, who support the unity of the working class and the national democratic forces, the candidates whom the people trust — whether they belong to the RPP, the Workers' Party (TİP), the Socialist Workers' Party (TSİP), or are independent.

28 November 1977

TKP Central Committee

**TO COMRADE MIKAIL ANDREYEVICH SUSLOV, MEMBER OF THE
POLITICAL BUREAU AND SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION**

Dearest Comrade Suslov,

On behalf of the Communist Party and all Communists of Turkey, we express our warmest greetings on this happy day, your 75th birthday.

The Communists of Turkey know you well through your long years of untiring, creative work in the ranks of the CPSU, the party of great Lenin. For us, your contributions in the construction of socialism and communism in the Soviet Union, your inexhaustible, productive efforts to strengthen the unity of the international communist and workers' movement, of which we are proud to be a member, have an unequalled value.

On this, your 75th birthday, we wish you happiness, a long life, and successes in your struggle in the ranks of the party of Lenin for the ideals of communism and peace.

With Communist Greetings,

İ. Bilen

General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey

21 November 1977

**TO COMRADE CHARILAOS FLORAKIS, GENERAL SECRETARY OF
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE**

Dear Comrade Florakis,

The successes achieved by the fraternal Communist Party of Greece in the November 20th general elections have greatly pleased us, the Communists of Turkey, the Communist Party of Turkey considers your successes an important advance by the fraternal working people of Greece against reaction and efforts to divide the working class movement – an important advance on the road to democracy, peace and socialism. The victories of the working class, the Communist Party and democratic forces of Greece has strengthened the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism in our region.

Esteemed Comrade, we wish the Communist Party of Greece further successes and express our heartfelt greetings to all our comrades.

İ. Bilen

General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey

23 November 1977

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE TKP AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF
THE USA**

The delegations of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) and the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) met to discuss questions of mutual interest. The TKP delegation was headed by Comrade İ. Bilen, the General Secretary of the TKP Central Committee. The delegation of the CPUSA was led by Comrade Gus Hall, the General Secretary of the CPUSA Central Committee.

The discussions were warm and friendly. The delegations exchanged information about the political and economic situations in their respective countries and the strategy and tactics of their respective parties. The subjects discussed included the arms race and the danger of war in the Middle East, in particular, the danger posed by the presence of American bases in Turkey and the Mediterranean. Each delegation stressed the necessity to further intensify the struggle for world peace, general disarmament and detente. They emphasized also the necessity to strengthen the struggle against racial discrimination and colonialism. The two parties declared that they are in complete agreement on all issues discussed. They stressed the firm ties of friendship that exist between the two parties and the importance of regular meetings between them to strengthen proletarian internationalism and the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism.

İ. Bilen

General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey

Gus Hall,

General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of the USA

15 November 1977

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE TKP AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL

The delegations of the Communist Party of Turkey and the Communist Party of Israel met at the beginning of November 1977. The TKP delegation was led by Comrade İ. Bilen, the General Secretary of the TKP Central Committee. The delegation of the Communist Party of Israel was led by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, Comrade Meir Vilner.

The delegations discussed questions of concern to both parties. They exchanged information pertaining to the political, social and economic situations in their countries and the struggle of their respective parties. They dwelt in particular on the problems threatening peace in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as on the arms race in this area.

The two parties stressed the necessity for the withdrawal of all foreign troops and the removal of all military bases in Cyprus. These, they said, constitute an aggression against the sovereign rights, independence and neutrality of Cyprus.

The two parties condemned imperialist plans aimed at transforming Cyprus into a NATO base and annexing the island itself.

The delegations declared their support for the Soviet proposal to convene within the framework of the United Nations, an international conference to seek a just solution of the Cyprus problem.

The two parties pointed out that the Middle East crisis is becoming more serious and that the aggressive, expansionist policies of American imperialism and the present ruling circles of Israel have given rise to a new danger of war. They agreed that a just and peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis is possible only within the framework of the following proposals:

- The withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab lands, back to the pre-1967-war borders;
- Recognition of the full rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state; respect for the sovereign rights and territorial integrity of all states in the region, including the state of Israel;
- The conclusion of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, the removal of the threat of war, and the immediate convening of the Geneva Peace Conference, with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and all parties concerned.

The two parties warmly greeted the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the adoption of the new Soviet constitution, the Leninist peace policy and the devotion to proletarian internationalism of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The delegations of the two parties emphasized the necessity to further strengthen the fight against racial discrimination and every type of colonialism.

The two parties stressed once again the fraternal bonds of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism which unite them in the struggle for peace, democracy, national independence and socialism.

İ. Bilen

General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey

Meir Vilner,

General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Israel

22 November 1977

SOLIDARITY WITH THE METAL WORKERS' STRIKE CONTINUES

The campaign of solidarity with the striking metal workers of Turkey is gaining strength. The metal workers, organised in Maden-İş (affiliated to DİSK, the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions), have been continuing their courageous and conscious strike for more than five months. Together with the members of other unions, agricultural workers, the Progressive Women's Association and the Association of Progressive Youth, various professional associations and progressive organisations are participating in the nation-wide solidarity campaign with moral and material aid to the striking workers. In their statements, these organisations have declared that the struggle of the Maden-İş workers against the MESS bosses is of national significance for the development and strengthening of the working class movement in Turkey, the defeat of the collaborating bourgeoisie and the achievement of new economic, political and social gains. They declared that the strengthening of solidarity with the metal workers is a duty of all progressives and patriots, of all those who oppose exploitation and oppression.

Actions of solidarity with the heroic metal workers are gradually spreading on an international scale as well. Our workers struggling to make a living in the West European countries are actively participating in this campaign. Solidarity committees have been formed in various countries. They include Portuguese, Greek, German, French, English, Spanish, and Chilean workers, as well as workers of other countries. Such committees have been formed in Bremen, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich and other cities in Federal Germany, as well as at the Bourgaile Styles, Skyvilla and other factories employing Turkish workers in Britain. Committees have been formed in Holland, Switzerland, France, Belgium and West Berlin. All these committees consider the metal workers' strike an important part of the struggle against the Nationalist Front government and the drive towards fascism. They have declared their solidarity with the striking metal workers.

Representatives of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Federal

Germany took part in the Maden-İş solidarity evening organised by Turkish and other progressive organisations in and around Frankfurt. In his speech at the meeting, the Secretary of the Confederation stressed the need to strengthen international solidarity against the attacks of the international monopolies on the working class and its trade union movement. He called on all trade unions to give active support to the Maden-İş strike, the longest strike in the history of the Turkey's working class movement. At the meeting, it was announced that 25 thousand DM will be sent to the Maden-İş workers before the end of the year.

A statement published by the World Federation of Trade Unions called upon the working people and trade unions of all countries to support the metal workers in their fight against MESS by sending aid in the form of food, clothing and money.

In a statement sent to all its member unions, the Secretariat of the International Union of Metal Workers urged all workers to show active solidarity with the striking Maden-İş workers. The statement strongly condemned the pressures and lockouts being applied by the MESS bosses and the government in an attempt to break the strike.

In the face of this class solidarity developing on both a national and an international scale, the MESS bosses and the government have intensified their attacks. They have begun to resort to every available means. Following the lockouts at 12 factories, they have proceeded to lock out 6 thousand workers at the Bursa automotive works. At the same time, the mouth-pieces of the employers and the government are spreading all sorts of lies in the hope of inciting the workers against their trade union. The metal workers responded to these attacks with a determined resistance and the consolidation of the trade union unity of the working class. The recent inclination of the MESS bosses to negotiate an end to the strike, to accept some of the workers' demands as well as the signing of collective agreements at some factories testify to this development.

THE RESULTS OF THE POLICY OF DEPENDENCE ON IMPERIALISM

The first and second Nationalist Front governments have brought our people nothing but terror, unemployment, soaring prices and greater dependence on imperialism. They have aggravated the crisis with their disastrous economic policies.

Economic experts report that foreign currency reserves have been completely exhausted and that this is leading to a halt in production. According to official figures, in 10 months, the foreign trade deficit has reached 4.5 billion dollars. Turkey's debts to the imperialist countries exceed 13 billion dollars. Before the end of this year alone, she must make payments of 1,475 million dollars on her foreign debts.

At the same time, prices are rising with unprecedented speed. The price of a kilo of meat has jumped to 100 lira. According to the OECD, Turkey has one of the fastest rising costs of living in the world. Figures released by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce show that in the first 10 months of 1977, prices rose an average of 47.4%. Hence, the purchasing power of 100 liras in September of 1976 had fallen to 67.9 liras by September of 1977. In other words, a person whose monthly income was 2.5 thousand liras in 1976 must earn 3.7 thousand liras in order to retain the same standard of living today.

All this shows that Turkey is facing an unparalleled economic collapse. Even such big bosses as Eczacıbaşı and Berker are complaining, "there is no escaping this ruin". Such bourgeois newspapers as the Guardian of Britain and the Frankfurter Allgemeine of Federal Germany are also writing that the Demirel government has completely lost face in the eyes of public opinion, that Turkey is in the grip of deep crises, and that this government is incapable of solving any of the problems facing the country.

The collaborating bourgeoisie, Demirel and his cohorts see the way out of the situation that they themselves have created by drawing Turkey deeper into the political, economic and military organisations of imperialism. To this end they declare themselves ready to meet all the demands of the International Monetary Fund. They are opening up new spheres of exploitation for the international monopolies and the profiteering banks. The major financial centres of imperialism — the Deutsche Bank, Morgan Guaranty of America and the Chase Manhattan Bank — have revealed that, on certain conditions, they are prepared to lend Turkey 1.5 billion dollars through a consortium they would form together with the IMF. The demands of the IMF and the three banks are as follows: The Turkish currency must be devalued once again — this time by at least 20%. Wages must be frozen and investments halted. Internal sources must be tapped. Foreign debts must be repaid according to a schedule to be drawn up by the IMF and the three banks. What all this means is a further encouragement of price increases, unemployment and exploitation, the turning of Turkey into a more reliable market for imperialist exploitation and the foisting of new burdens on the working people.

In order to escape the collapse which they themselves have brought about, and in order to satisfy more quickly the demands of the financial centres of international imperialism, the collaborating bourgeoisie is seeking to form a Justice Party — Republican People's Party coalition. At every opportunity, the bourgeoisie reminds us that if it cannot achieve its objectives with this formula, it is ready to resort to a fascist coup. The increasing number of attacks by fascist commandos and the police and the various operations carried out against the Kurdish people in the East are intended to prepare the atmosphere for such a coup.

This collapse, the unprecedented high cost of living, inflation, unemployment, the bloody terror are all the results of the bourgeoisie's policy of dependence on imperialism and NATO — a policy that is contrary to national interests. The only party pointing towards the true way out of this situation, the only party constantly fighting for this is the Communist Party of Turkey. The TKP declares that only a government with a clear anti-fascist, anti-

imperialist, democratic program is capable of solving the problems facing the country, of opening up new possibilities for the development of the revolutionary process. The TKP emphasizes that the road to this end passes through the unity of action of all national democratic forces, progressives and patriots, under the leadership of the working class.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SWEDEN

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of all communists and working people of Turkey, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey greets your Congress and wishes you success in your work.

Your party is struggling to protect the democratic process against the rule of the monopolies and the anti-popular policies of the government of the big bourgeoisie. It is struggling for the interests of the working class and all working people, for the unity of all democratic forces.

The TKP expresses its solidarity with the just struggle of the Communist Party of Sweden. Our parties are bound together by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

We wish you new successes in your struggle.

With Communist Greetings,

I. Bilen

General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey

24 October 1977